TAXI VERDICT IN HALIFAX

Passenger in sex assault case responds to judge's remark that 'clearly, a drunk can consent'

Women gather to discuss best course of action against Judge Gregory Lenehan

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Pointing out casual racism is exhausting — the easier option is to just 'Get Out'

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CODE RED: TORONTO'S HOUSING CRISIS

EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Fatin Chowdhury will be able to afford his dream home in just ...

19.5 MORE YEARS

And he's not alone: That's how long it will take the typical young person to save for an average home in the GTA metroNEWS

Diversions, delays add insult to injury during Queen streetcar closure, Matt Elliott writes metroNEWS

Trump revising Muslim travel ban to overcome legal challenges, official says metroNEWS

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Officials say FBI Director James Comey disputes Trump's claims that Obama wiretapped telephones. **World**

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"As a society, we need to be more caring. We need to be sitting beside each other and having conversations, not staring at our phones 24/7, which is something I struggle with. If we continue to be selfish, we're going to continue to hurt each other and that's going to create more problems.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans of Toronto on Instagram.

Advocates worried after Halifax verdict

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

'Survivors start to think that they won't be heard in court'

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Advocates are concerned last week's ruling in a Halifax sexual assault case could drive the already low number of reported cases even lower.

"Less than 10 per cent of survivors report sexual assault to the police," said Farrah Khan, co-ordinator of sexual violence education and support program at Ryerson University. She added that number has gone down since the Jian Ghomeshi case and could dive even lower following the new ruling.

"Survivors start to think that they won't be heard in court, so why bother?" she said.

A Halifax judge handed down a not guilty verdict Wednesday in the case of a driver charged with sexually assaulting a young woman found drunk and unconscious in his cab. In his ruling Judge Gregory Lenehan said "clearly a drunk can consent."

"Drinking is not a crime. Sexual assault is," said Khan. "The only thing a woman who's been drinking should expect is a hangover."

Advocates have been calling for training of alcohol providers to intervene and stop sexual assaults, but Khan believes the training should reach the general public and touch on topics of being accountable, responsible and respectful.

Aisha Addo founded DriveHer so that women can find rides from other women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

> **I think it does put women in a vulnerable position.**
> Aisha Addo

Aisha Addo, founder of DriveHer — Canada's first ride-sharing service exclusively for women — said the Halifax case is an example of the horror stories she's heard over the years.

"A place that is supposed to be a safe haven has also become a place of threat," she said about cabs.

Calls for a formal review of the Halifax judge's decision have been mounting from advocates across the country.

"The message this is sending out there to younger girls is that, 'hey, if you go out and you drink too much and then you get into a taxi and something happens, you can't necessarily report it to the police because the judge is going to say the fact that you were drunk means that you can still give consent," Addo said.

The taxi industry is dominated by men and many women find themselves hailing a ride alone at night after they've had a few drinks, Addo added.

"I think it does put women in a vulnerable position," she said.

She sees her service — rolling out soon in the Peel region and in Toronto after that — as an alternative in a situation where there are few alternatives.

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Rough ride for streetcar riders

Coming deluge of delays speaks volumes about city's priorities

OPINION

Matt Elliott

Starting in May the TTC will take all streetcars off Queen. It'll be buses for everyone. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Pity the streetcar rider.

For much of 2017, their downtown transit trips will take on an element of mystery.

Will a streetcar or a bus show up at the curb? Telling you would ruin the surprise! What route will they take? The only certainty is twists and turns! Will riders even get to their destination? The future, my friends, is vast and unknowable!

Here's what we do know. Starting at the end of March, streetcars on Queen Street will take a detour again around construction taking place between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.

This is a rerun of a diversion from last year. According to numbers obtained by transit expert Steve Munro, the meandering trip added about 15 minutes to travel time at peak periods.

That route disruption will join another construction project that affects the west end of the Queen streetcar route. To accommodate track and bridge work, streetcars have been turning back at Roncesvalles Avenue since January — and will for the rest of the year.

With these projects and a rat's nest of other pending construction needs along the route, starting in May the TTC will effectively throw in the towel and take all streetcars off Queen. It'll be buses for everyone.

If you're hoping the planned improvements to the King Street streetcar will offset some of this madness, think again — the pilot project isn't set to start until the fall.

And to add a little bit of insult to injury, return of the Queen streetcar is set to coincide with the Toronto International Film Festival, an event that traditionally causes a streetcar detour on King Street to accommodate the fancy red carpets.

I'm exhausted just looking at this.

I understand that construction projects are a fact of life, and that it is impossible to do major work and accommodate events without some disruption. But if this is seriously the best the TTC and city hall can do, I'll eat my Presto card.

Indeed, for an example of where the city has done a better job of minimizing construction impacts, you only need to look south to the Gardiner Expressway. There, Mayor John Tory has made a habit of announcing new money to speed up repair work and open up lanes ahead of schedule — announcing $2 million to finish things quicker in 2014 and another $3.4 million in 2015. And that's on top of the truckloads of money the city will spend rebuilding the Gardiner East.

Has the same consideration been given to transit routes? Do transit riders matter as much as drivers? For 250,000 daily streetcar riders, these are questions worth asking as we trundle through another year of diversions and delays.

DISCRIMINATION

Actress says racism behind her expulsion from theatre

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Wendy Olunike Adeliyi, an actress on the CBC show Workin' Moms, says she may file a complaint over alleged discrimination at a local movie theatre. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

Local actress Wendy Olunike Adeliyi just wanted to see the movie Loving. But she says she was denied entry to Kingsway Theatre in a case of racial discrimination and is demanding an apology.

Adeliyi, who has appeared in TV series such as Workin' Moms, Republic of Doyle and Flashpoint, said she was refused a ticket unless she surrendered her backpack. Her backpack contained a laptop and money, and she felt uncomfortable turning it over.

After initially leaving the theatre, she returned and accepted the rule. But Adeliyi says theatre owner Rui Pereira intervened to refuse her entry and instead called the police and told her she would be arrested.

Pereira strongly denies any discrimination and says the theatre was simply enforcing its policies.

"This went from zero to 100 very quickly," said Adeliyi, noting the owner started filming and taking pictures of her. She adds that when he called 911 and described her as "a black woman wearing black and being disruptive," she realized she was "dealing with something deeper."

> **This went from zero to 100 very quickly.**
> Wendy Olunike Adeliyi

"When you describe someone as black and dangerous and threatening, that has gotten a lot of black women and men killed," she said.

Adeliyi is considering a formal complaint.

Kingsway Theatre owner Rui Pereira told Metro that Adeliyi's claims are false, and she's just an "attention seeker."

"It has nothing to do with her skin colour," he said.

Pereira said he had to call the police because Adeliyi "came back belligerent, slammed her bag on the counter" and refused to leave the premises.

Following the incident, Pereira used Kingsway Theatre's social-media platforms to respond to Adeliyi's claims, questioning her "personal neurosis," musing about whether she used her acting skills to make a scene, and claiming the theatre has been harassed and extorted by reviewing service Yelp.

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CODE RED: TORONTO'S HOUSING CRISIS

Dream homes turn to fantasy

MILLENNIALS

Young people need 13 years more to save for down payment

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Almost 20 years. That's how long it will take the typical young person working full time to save for a 20 per cent down payment on an average GTA home, according to new numbers provided exclusively to Metro.

It's 13 years longer than it took people back in 1976, adjusting for inflation and assuming a person can save about 15 per cent of their income.

For Fatin Chowdhury, the idea of being able to one day afford a dream home is starting to feel like a fantasy.

"I can't even contemplate the idea of home ownership," said the 24-year-old. "It's definitely frustrating."

Chowdhury lives with his parents in Mississauga and spends about an hour and 40 minutes commuting to Toronto every day for work.

He's been searching for a shared apartment in the city but hasn't found much in his budget of $800 a month. And, as things are now, by the time he pays for transit and other expenses there's not much left to put away for any kind of down payment.

"It's not that I don't want to have a home one day," Chowdhury said, "It's just that I don't think I can really have that, given where I am right now and what the prices are."

Fatin Chowdhury spends about an hour and 40 minutes every day commuting from Mississauga to Toronto. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Young people are among the hardest hit by the growing problem of housing affordability in the GTA.

Changes to existing policies that govern everything from housing density to house flipping could go a long way toward fixing the problem, according to research from Generation Squeeze.

In the coming weeks, Metro will present possible solutions to the housing crunch, highlight best practices from around the world and document the experiences of people struggling to get a foothold in the market.

If you have a story to share, email may.warren@metronews.ca. and tweet using the hashtag #codered.

Next Monday: Rental Woes
Torontonians are spending more and more of their income on rent. But, it doesn't have to be that way.
MAY WARREN/METRO

That reality is a huge shift from where people his age sat a few generations ago, said Paul Kershaw, a University of British Columbia professor and founder of Generation Squeeze.

Kershaw's data — crunched from housing and income figures collected by the Canadian Real Estate Association and Statistics Canada — shows people who bought homes in the mid-1980s could save for a starter home in just a few years.

People who bought homes back then are sitting on gold mines, while young people starting careers now face the opposite.

"Hard work pays off so much less than it used to," Kershaw said.

Many young adults are in a "vicious cycle" of high student debt, precarious work and rising child-care costs while trying to save for a home, he added.

"It's like an escalator that's going down so quickly, and the younger demographic is trying to adapt," Kershaw said.

Millennials may try to get more degrees, work more hours or take on more debt, but it doesn't help. "Even all those adaptations don't let them get up faster than the actual escalator is going down," he said.

Because houses are harder to find, renting has become more important. But the price of renting in the GTA has also risen with the hot housing market and supply hasn't kept up with demand.

That means home affordability, as Kershaw calls it, has become "a problem that afflicts pretty much everybody who's in their 20s, 30s and early 40s."

He hopes the number of people impacted presents an opportunity to change policies and work towards solutions that can also help address long-standing problems like homelessness and a lack of affordable housing for the working poor.

Amara Possian, who is working with Chowdhury to launch the Code Red housing campaign in Toronto, said she sees an overall shift in her generation away from ownership and towards "access." But that's one thing when it comes to ridesharing and another when it comes to a roof over your head.

"It's really unsettling," said the 27-year-old. "That dream that many people grew up with that if they just worked hard they'd be able to afford a house, it's seems so unrealistic that it's ridiculous to even think about it."

National initiative coming

Generation Squeeze is a national initiative that draws attention to and presents solutions for the growing pressures faced by Canadians in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

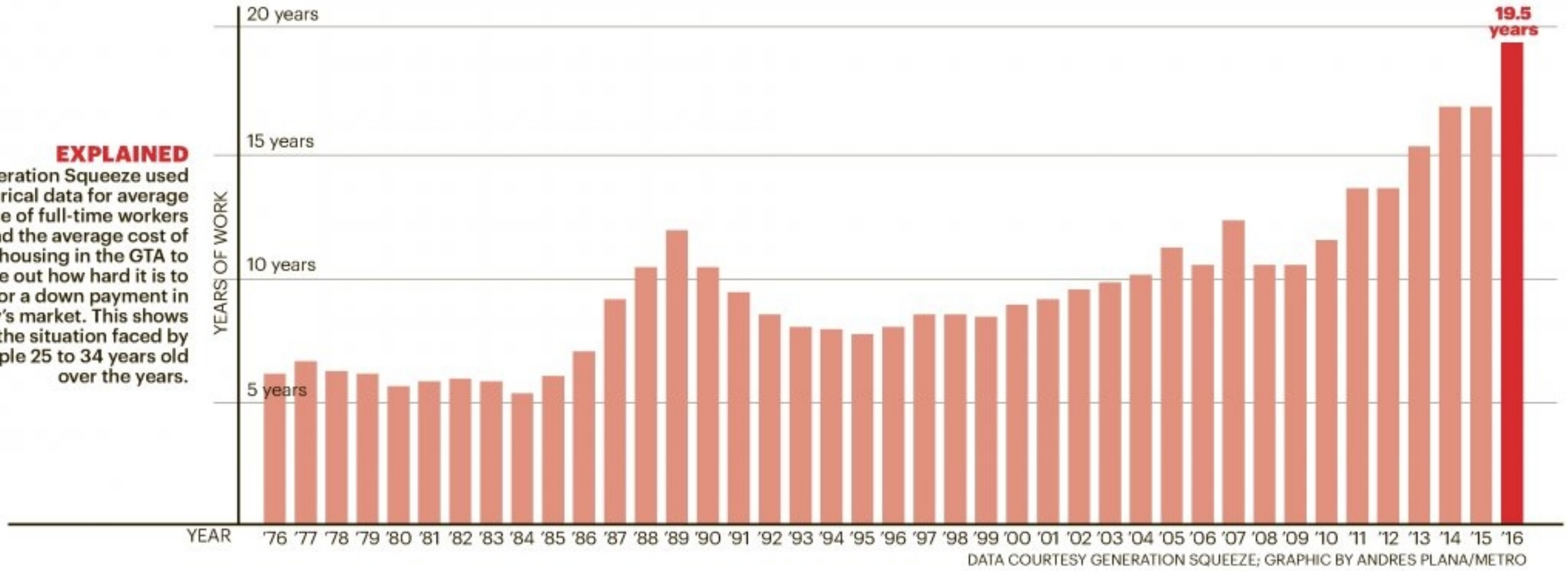
Paul Kershaw started the organization in Vancouver in 2011. A Toronto chapter is being launched this weekend in a bid to shape the conversation around housing and other struggles young people face including precarious work, lower wages, high childcare costs and student debt.

The launch is March 11 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Steelworkers Hall (25 Cecil St.).

On housing, Kershaw hopes the GTA can learn from some of what's already happened in Vancouver, which was ranked one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the world in 2017. The time for action is now, he said.
MAY WARREN/METRO

Paul Kershaw : JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

EXPLAINED
Generation Squeeze used historical data for average income of full-time workers and the average cost of housing in the GTA to figure out how hard it is to save for a down payment in today's market. This shows the situation faced by people 25 to 34 years old over the years.



DATA COURTESY GENERATION SQUEEZE; GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

CODE RED: TORONTO'S HOUSING CRISIS

No roof on house prices

AFFORDABILITY

Prices through the ceiling, up 27.7 per cent year over year

If this were a detached home, it might fetch $1.5 million in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

As the number of home listings continues to flag, resale prices soared 27.7 per cent across the Toronto area to $875,983 in February, compared to the same month last year.

The latest statistics from the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) show its benchmarked price index rose 23.8 per cent year over year last month.

January to February typically sees the biggest month to month price jump in the calendar. This February, home prices were up $105,238 over January.

Heated demand pushed detached home prices up 32 per cent across the region in February to $1.1 million.

In the city, the average cost of a detached home has crossed the $1.5-million mark, a 35 per cent increase over the same month last year.

The number of regional sales rose 5.7 per cent to 8,014 homes, up from 7,583 last February, which had another day in the month. But the number of homes for sale dropped 12.5 per cent in the same period to 9,834, said TREB.

With about half of homebuyers first-time consumers in the Toronto region, and an even higher percentage of first-timers in Toronto, condo sales also continued their double-digit increases — 19.2 per cent in the region with an average price of $481,194.

The greatest increase in highrise sales was in Durham Region, which saw a 28 per cent increase.

TREB officials continued to push governments to consider policies aimed at increasing the supply of homes in the region, rather than focusing on cooling demand that is being fuelled by the region's booming population, combined with relatively low interest rates and unemployment.

Bank economists and CMHC have suggested Toronto's housing market is dangerously overheated.

TREB's news release also defended a recently released statistic showing that only 4.9 per cent of real estate transactions in the region involved a foreign buyer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto DIGEST

SPECIAL DELIVERY

To serve and protect, particularly newborns

He may be a veteran with 26 years on the Toronto Police Force, but for Const. Colin McLaughlin, Saturday morning was special.

"It's not every day you can say you helped deliver a baby," said the constable, one of two officers who helped deliver a baby in the back of a taxi that arrived at their police station.

He and Staff Sgt. Kim O'Toole went out to help, and McLaughlin held the baby upon delivery. Paramedics arrived soon after. Mother and baby were doing well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Police investigate stabbing downtown

A man in his 20s was rushed to hospital in serious condition following a stabbing near Adelaide Street West and Spadina Avenue early Sunday morning. A suspect has not been identified. TORSTAR

ACCOUNTABILITY

Victoria College, city in dispute over taxes

Victoria College, owner of some of Toronto's poshest commercial real estate, used false arguments to offer the city a fraction of the millions of dollars it owes in property taxes, a scathing confidential report alleges.

The city staff report advises city councillors to reject an "unacceptable" proposal, secret until now, made by Victoria University, a federated college at University of Toronto.

Councillors recommend that if no deal is reached by September, the province scrap the college's unusual exemption from paying property taxes on its enviable land holdings. TORSTAR

ALLEGED ASSAULT

Teacher suspended

Peel Regional Police say a teacher at a private school in Mississauga has been charged with sexual assault and exploitation.

Tahir Mahmood, a 41-year-old teacher at Safa and Marwa Islamic School, was suspended when the allegations surfaced last week.

Mahmood will appear in court in Brampton on the allegations on April 4. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Passenger sends thanks for support

HALIFAX TAXI VERDICT

Woman at centre of cab driver case speaks of shock

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

If this was a man, do you think that (Lenehan) would be making those comments at him? I don't believe so.

The passenger in taxi case

When she can't sleep at night, the passenger at the centre of the Halifax taxi sexual assault acquittal said she opens her phone to read comments from hundreds of strangers, their support like a "blanket" of protection.

Since Judge Gregory Lenehan declared Bassam Al-Rawi not guilty last week, his words like "clearly, a drunk can consent," and the case evidence have sparked a national outcry, official complaints to the Chief Justice, and future protests.

"The kind of terms that (Lenehan) used and the statements that he made, are making people question that credibility. Kind of like how they were supposed to be questioning my credibility," said the woman in an interview, whose identity is protected by a publication ban.

She spoke to Metro on the weekend.

"We need to believe beyond a reasonable doubt you were making a fair decision here, and I don't think that people felt that way."

The passenger, a woman in her 20s, said she's seen many assume the case began with her complaint.

In fact, she said police pressed charges after an officer found her drunk, unconscious and partially naked in the cab.

It was the Crown that chose to prosecute Al-Rawi. Her only involvement was being called to testify, where she said she could remember nothing about the incident. A forensic analyst determined the woman's blood-alcohol level was as high as 241 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood - about three times the legal limit.

Until the verdict she only hoped the judge would listen to testimony, examine the evidence, and come up with a "fair decision," she said, understanding few sexual assault cases end in conviction.

But last Thursday, the woman walked into work and first read about the evidence in a Metro issue, as well as Lenehan's comments that the Crown had failed to prove she did not consent to sexual activity.

"That was definitely when the flames came up and I thought 'What? This is your reason?' I was shocked," she said, shaking her head.

Lenehan's phrase that "clearly, a drunk can consent" really hit her, the woman said, since the situation may be "clear" to Lenehan "but to the rest of the world you can't really speak to that."

After reading it, she said she felt "completely stripped naked," and as if everyone was looking at her. It's been an especially odd, "out-of-body" feeling to have friends and co-workers who don't know she was the passenger bring it up, she said.

But online comments supporting her, and calling for a review into Lenehan's judgment, have been very comforting when she's unable to sleep at night, she said.

"It makes me feel better. It's like the city, especially women in the city but a lot of men too, have just been kind of forming this blanket around me like 'We're not going to stand by this,'" she said.

"If people weren't ... making their voices heard I think that verdict and all of that would have just been so much worse because it would've just felt like 'Wow, the system's broken and nobody's here to fix it.'"

She's glad an official complaint has been made to the Chief Justice about Lenehan's judgment, she said, and no matter what happens "as far as sexual assault cases go, specifically, he should have no part in those anymore."

The woman said it's up to the Crown to appeal the case, but if she's again called to testify she will not only because it's her legal duty, but because of "all these people rallying around. For my part I have to kind of be the voice behind that as well."

COURT

Women gather to prepare complaints about judge's ruling

Martha Cody, Sarah Bezanson and Ingrid Cottonden write down notes as Elise MacIntyre reads out a message from a lawyer on the topic of Judge Gregory Lenehan. CODY MCEACHERN/METRO HALIFAX

Cody McEachern
For Metro | Halifax

Four women met around a table at the Halifax Central Library on Sunday afternoon.

They were there to discuss Judge Gregory Lenehan and his decision to acquit taxi driver Bassam Al-Rawi of sexual assault of a female passenger.

"How much more evidence do you need to prove sexual assault," Elise MacIntyre said to the other women. "He didn't care about her, and he shouldn't be the one to make a decision on the well-being of a woman again."

They all nodded and scribbled down notes on pads of paper in front of them.

MacIntyre organized the meeting after she took to Facebook to find out how to file a complaint against the judge, whose verdict has drawn national attention over comments that the Crown was not able to prove the complainant's "lack of consent" despite her high intoxication level, and the remark that "clearly, a drunk can consent."

"Everyone was talking about sending a letter," said MacIntyre. "But I kept getting different bits of information from people I spoke to on Facebook, it seemed the process kept changing. So I felt it would be good if a bunch of us could come together to brainstorm and figure out how to get our voices heard."

At the meeting, they discussed the best course of action to get an investigation started on Lenehan, and took notes to pass on to those who couldn't make it.

NEXT STEPS

- The Crown has 30 days to decide whether will appeal Lenehan's verdict.
- The complaint (or complaints) against Judge Lenehan will be reviewed by the Chief Judge's appointee, who may do the following: dismiss the complaint; resolve the complaint; or refer the complaint to the N.S. Judicial Council.

IN BRIEF

Clean-up underway after bio diesel spills at fish farm

Coast guard officials say crews are working to clean up a fuel spill at a fish farm off Vancouver Island's north coast. The federal fisheries department says the coast guard received a report Sunday about a spill from a fuel tank at an Atlantic salmon aquaculture site in Echo Bay. An estimated 900 to 1,000 litres of bio diesel overflowed into the water when a fuel pump was left on overnight.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMMIGRATION

Feds discuss border-crossers

Federal cabinet ministers are set for an in-depth discussion this week of the practical and political pressures being placed on the Liberal government by a rising number of asylum seekers in Canada.

Border security, RCMP and immigration officials have been running scenarios to prepare for the possibility that a trickle of illegal immigration into Canada could turn into higher numbers in the spring.

The results will help form options being put before cabinet Tuesday, The Canadian Press has learned. Officials are also studying links between groups of border-crossers that might belie the common notion they're all being pushed into Canada by the political climate in the U.S.

Two government officials confirmed that many of the people coming into Quebec hold American visas issued at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Interviews revealed the visas were obtained to use the U.S. as a transit point get to Canada and claim asylum — plans set in motion long before the U.S. election in November, the officials said.

But it is the pictures of RCMP officers hoisting small children above snow-covered fields along the Canada-U.S. frontier that have drawn global attention and placed political pressure on the Trudeau government from all sides. The Conservatives are demanding a crackdown, and want those crossing illegally charged with crimes, something the government notes cannot happen until asylum claims are heard. T

The fact that those claims are being fed into a clogged system has others urging the Liberals to put more resources into the refugee-determination process and the agencies that support newcomers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ralph Goodale and Jim Carr after a visit with officials in Emerson, Manitoba, on Saturday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Trump 'confusing' on LGBTQ rights

EQUALITY

Some worried the president isn't the one making policies

Before same-sex marriage was legal anywhere in America, a gay activist in Florida twice brought a date to the Mar-a-Lago club. Each time, Rand Hoch and his guest were greeted by the smiling face of Donald Trump.

"Great eye contact. Firm handshake. The same way with everybody who came in," Hoch, founder and president of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council, recalled. "There was no difference at all with my dates and me and the people in back of me or in front of me. He's out there, he's personable, and there's no way he's going to treat anybody differently."

Never before has the leader of the Republican Party shown as much public comfort with gay people as this one has. Trump has attended gay weddings, donated to gay causes, and welcomed gay couples as Mar-a-Lago members when they were still shunned by other Florida clubs.

Now he is president, and much of the LGBTQ community is apprehensive.

"I don't think he is making policy. I think he's surrounded himself with some horrible people when it comes to LGBTQ issues, they're the ones that are making policy, and he's going to sign whatever Steve Bannon puts in front of him," said Hoch. "It's not like there's anybody in the official administration who's an advocate of treating LGBTQ people the way we treat every other American."

> **I think he's surrounded himself with some horrible people when it comes to LGBTQ issues.** Rand Hoch

Trump's vice-president, Christian conservative Mike Pence, approved an Indiana law that permitted businesses to cite "religious freedom" to defend against claims of anti-gay discrimination. Bannon, his chief strategist, ran a website that published anti-gay articles. Most notably, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has a long record of fierce opposition to LGBTQ rights.

The six-week-old administration has sent mixed signals so far, alternately heartening and disquieting LGBTQ advocates.

In one of his earliest statements, Trump said he would preserve an Obama order that banned anti-LGBTQ discrimination by federal contractors – his team explaining "he continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights, just as he was throughout the election."

Three weeks later, though, his administration withdrew an Obama directive telling schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms matching their identity. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICS GERMANY ALMOST TURNED BACK REFUGEES IN 2015: REPORT
In this Sept. 16, 2015, photo, a young boy looks at police officers after he and other refugees were pulled out of a train by police at a train station in southern Germany. German newspaper 'Welt am Sonntag' reports that the government planned to close the border with Austria and turn back asylum-seekers in September 2015, but nixed the plan at the last minute. The paper reported Sunday. The interior ministry said in a statement it could "neither confirm nor deny" the report.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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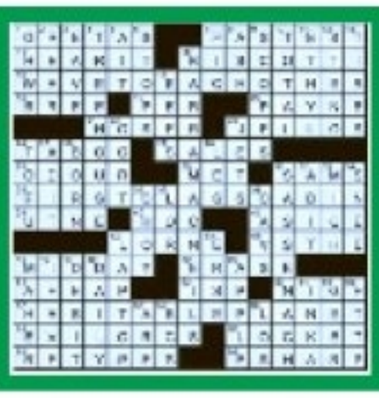

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Muslim travel ban changes on the way

POLITICS

Official says new order aims to overcome legal challenges

President Donald Trump is preparing to sign a revised executive order temporarily barring the entry of people from certain Muslim-majority countries and halting the nation's refugee program.

A White House official says plans to roll out the order are on track for Monday. The official insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the order ahead of the official announcement.

The new order has been in the works since shortly after a federal court blocked Trump's initial effort, but the administration has repeatedly pushed back the signing.

Trump administration officials have said the new order aims to overcome the legal challenges to the first. Its goal will be the same: keep would-be terrorists out of the United States while the government reviews the vetting system for refugees and visa applicants from certain parts of the world.

Trump's original orders temporarily blocked citizens of Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria and Libya from coming to the United States and put on hold the U.S. refugee program.

The revised order is expected to remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban, following pressure from the Pentagon and State Department, which had urged the White House to reconsider, given Iraq' key role in fighting Daesh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump signs an executive order in the Oval Office in January. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ALLEGATIONS

Denial, discord on tap claim
Donald Trump turned to Congress on Sunday to help find evidence to support his claim that Barack Obama had Trump's telephones tapped during the election. Obama's intelligence chief said no such action was ever carried out, and a U.S. official said the FBI has asked the Justice Department to dispute the allegation.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, March 6, 2017

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

How do you respond to baseless statements about newcomers causing spikes in violent crime?

Dear Ellen,

In old Toronto, American visitors would comment on the good manners of the city's burghers and their clean streets. Then Pierre Trudeau introduced an open-door immigrant policy that encouraged tens of thousands of uneducated, poverty-stricken, and culturally alien newcomers to our major cities. His policy was meant to lessen Canada's traditional bond to the U.K., and create a large voting base that would be indebted to the Liberal party. Toronto is now home to hundreds of thousands of Third World immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and illegals who have formed ghettos in an effort to keep their culture alive and not integrate. Unfortunately, this often includes the worst elements of their previous cultures, hence the unprecedented increase in violent crime. So don't expect Canadian manners and morals from this group. The most we can expect is that our police can get on top of the crime wave and make our streets safer.

Derek Holloway, Etobicoke

Dear Derek,

According to Bob Plamondon's 2013 book, The Truth About Trudeau, the number of immigrants admitted annually declined from 183,974 in 1968 when PET took office to 90,000 by 1984, when he left for good. During the Progressive Conservatives' Mulroney years, it escalated to 250,000 by 1993. Today, over half the population of Toronto was born outside Canada, according to the city website. As for crime, news about shootings is alarming, but the sensational headlines disguise the fact that in Toronto homicides are down, from 86 in 2007 to 69 in 2016 according to the Toronto Police Service.

The facts of the case aren't the point here. It's how you have perceived them.

But the facts of the case aren't the point here. It's how you have perceived them. I can't argue with how you feel, but since you wrote to me, I'll share where I'm coming from. My world view is shaped by being raised as a Christian. I'm no longer religious, but I still consider Jesus Christ's golden rule as the best rule to live by: Treat others as you would have them treat you.

Where you see "Third World immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and illegals" forming "ghettos in an effort to keep their culture alive and not integrate," I see normal folks sticking together out of a basic human need for companionship and safety. I don't believe anyone flees war, persecution, oppression or poverty because they want to live separate from and resented by people who've forgotten their own immigrant roots. I'm so proud of Toronto and Canada for the support we give to newcomers so they can rise up from their disadvantaged beginnings here, and contribute to a richer society for all of us. Our multicultural city, in my view, is the true meaning of Christianity — in Technicolor.

I know how hard it is to accept people who are different. It can be frightening to see "normal" life in Canada disrupted by people who don't think or act like you, and who don't want to. And some of "them," just like some of "us," will inevitably represent the "worst elements of their previous cultures." But their presence here is also a wonderful opportunity for us to put our own standards of human decency to the test — and hope we measure up.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

VICKY MOCHAMA

In Get Out, it's the little things that are frighteningly real

At a friend's wedding shower, a friend of the bride's mother greeted me with enthusiastic warmth.

"Hey! I haven't seen you in a while. How are things?"

We'd never met.

She had confused me for a new neighbour of hers. What did the new neighbour and I have in common? We are both black women.

I wasn't sure what to do except to laugh it off.

In Get Out, the recent Jordan Peele horror film, I saw the same instinct to laugh off racial incidents from Chris, the film's main character. Instead of a dramedy like Guess Who's Coming To Dinner, Get Out turns the idea of a black man meeting his white partner's parents into a thriller about the real and perceived danger of being the only black person in a predominantly white space.

There's a scene that surely reads differently depending on who you are.

Chris, a black photographer goes with his girlfriend, Rose, to meet her parents on their pastoral property in upstate New York. Her father takes Chris on a tour of the house.

For the untrained ear, it sounds like any house tour: A souvenir from Bali. A photo of his dad, who raced Jesse Owens. The maid. For me, the entire conversation sounded like, "Hey Chris, you're black. This is a new room, and by the way, you're black."

By pointing out his worldliness and adjacency to black people and black history, the father is signalling his bona fides on race while at the same time reminding Chris that, as a black man, he is different. (Later, he will insist that he would have voted for Obama a third time if he could.)

The way the conversation subtly pivots to race is just one of the ways in which people who wouldn't consider themselves to be racist can come off as racist.

They may be well-intentioned, but it often feels like an effort to address race by subterfuge. Rather than actually say aloud "I noticed you're black," a lot of people will say a more general phrase like "My cousin's kid is doing a semester in Africa."

The movie has more overt moments of reminding Chris he's black.

I won't spoil it the house party scenes except to say that it's very hard to enjoy a glass of wine while older white folks talk about whether you're more of a caramel or a chocolate skin tone. Gulps, not sips, are required.

These seemingly innocuous incidents pile up yet they're hardly worth delivering a seminar on race to the offenders. Because of the semblance of innocence, it is hard to point to them as evidence.

That's the rub of racism in progressive places, especially dominantly white spaces. It is hard to put together the comments, questions and asides for other people in a way that spells out the racism.

The easier option is to get out.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Critics say blue mania at Paris Fashion Week is a statement about 'the blues' over the rise of nationalism

Firecracking the gender code

Comedian Naomi Snieckus's new podcast Firecracker Department will feature guests who can speak about the behind-the-scenes of the entertainment industry. Among those scheduled so far are: Jayne Eastwood, Annie Murphy, Bette Macdonald, and Debra McGrath. CONTRIBUTED

PODCAST

Naomi Snieckus interviews bright, loud, bold women

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Naomi Snieckus has accomplished much in Canadian showbiz. She has accrued Canadian Comedy Awards for improvisation and appeared in dozens of homegrown television shows (including her current role on CBC's Mr. D). But now the multi-talented actress has a new mission — propelling the term "firecracker lady" into the zeitgeist.

"A firecracker is someone who is unabashed, somebody who is unapologetic," explained Snieckus recently from Los Angeles. "They're bright and loud and bold and they're all the women that I talk to."

Energized by her colleagues in the male-dominated entertainment industry, Snieckus has created the podcast Firecracker Department with intent to spotlight the most intriguing women in entertainment by sharing a glass of good wine and even better conversation.

"This is new to me, this world of interviewing," admits Snieckus. "We're not sitting at a desk, our shoes are off — it's got a little bit more of a casual feel, (so) you have a glass of wine and a cheese plate and you go, 'Oh, this is going to be a little bit different.'"

It's also not just putting the focus on the most famous female voices in 'the biz' either. Although Snieckus has certainly caught up with top talents like legendary character-actor Jayne Eastwood (Hairspray, TV's SCTV) and Annie Murphy (Schitt's Creek), she also aims to introduce audiences to unfamiliar writers, editors and other behind-the-scenes personalities.

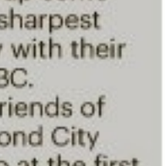
"There's so much more in-depth discussion to have with these women," said Snieckus, who even plans to include her aspiring 9-year-old firecracker niece in a future episode. "I asked her what's her advice to women and she was like, 'Do what you want to do'. That's so great — she's such an inspiring little creature because she hasn't been told she can't do anything yet."

Firecracker Department premiered last week with episodes every Monday on iTunes and YouTube.

While Snieckus promises funny conversations that probe the "victories, embarrassments and vagaries of fame," she also hopes that women are stirred by the podcast as well. Indeed, under a still-new Trump presidency, women's rights feel as if they've stalled momentarily so inspiration may be more important than ever.

"If you've got something good to say, say it loudly," said Snieckus. "In general, intelligent people can't speak loud enough. Some people can't speak quiet enough, but in this case, I think more venues for women's voices is always essential."

DREAM GUESTS



Catherine O'Hara
The improv legend stars on TV's Schitt's Creek.
"If you look at (her) performances, she doesn't just rest at being a comedian," said Snieckus. "She finds depth in everything she does."

Carol Burnett
The comedy icon has been called "a bona-fide feminist hero".
"Folks (like her) have been around long enough to see what used to be and ridden the success of what it is now," said Snieckus.

Baroness Von Sketch
Canada's newest class clowns, the female quartet served up some of the nation's sharpest sketch comedy with their TV debut on CBC.
"Those are all friends of mine from Second City and they're also at the first stages of their adventure in this," said Snieckus.

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David Lindo-Reid is a Sheridan College student who is currently performing in the ensemble of Broadway-bound musical Sousatzka. The show runs through April 9 in Toronto. BRAYDEN SWIRE

CAREERS

Leaps of faith to a big break

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

When David Lindo-Reid was a university student in his native home of Kingston, Jamaica, his mom would joke: "Well, he majors in extra-curricular activities."

That's because his main focus at that time wasn't his full-time academic stream, management, but rather his true passion in life — the performing arts.

"All I did was sing, act and dance," laughs Lindo-Reid. The 25-year-old thinks back fondly on both receiving his management degree and The Company Dance Theatre where, in his spare time, he worked with artistic director Tony Wilson. "He really took me under his wing. I was 18 and I just started dancing three hours a day, three to four days a week," says Lindo-Reid, who is now in the ensemble for Sousatzka, a Broadway-bound musical currently playing in Toronto.

Sousatzka tells the story of a South African family who fled apartheid to settle in London, England, set in 1982. Producer Garth Drabinsky describes it as "a musical about God-given genius, the sacrificial journey of refugees and the ultimate redemption of the human spirit to begin again." That theme should resonate with many Canadians, and it's one Lindo-Reid wholeheartedly connects with.

He left Jamaica in 2013, marrying his Canadian partner in New York City before moving to Canada at the end of that summer.

"I knew that I couldn't foresee a future being an openly gay person in Jamaica," says Lindo-Reid, recalling a traumatic high school experience during which he was cornered and threatened by other students when a rumour had spread about him being gay. He was only 14 at the time.

While he recognizes the LGBTQ community is making progress in that country now — the second pride parade was held in the country last year — there was another reason he wanted to move: his ambition to turn his musical theatre passion into a career. But it wasn't easy.

After getting accepted into the Sheridan College honours bachelor of musical theatre performance program, Lindo-Reid and his husband moved to Oakville, Ont. three days before orientation was to begin.

> **I couldn't foresee a future being an openly gay person in Jamaica.**
> David Lindo-Reid

Once he was able to work in Canada, he took on three jobs: "I was a server at Kelsey's; I was housekeeping at the residence at school; and I was teaching dance part-time at one of my friend's performance companies."

The gruelling grind eventually paid off. When he found out Sousatzka was choreographed by one of his icons, Graciela Daniele, he knew he couldn't pass up the chance to audition.

Now, he is set to graduate from Sheridan, while working closely with the Tony-decorated cast. He plays several characters in the show, including a South African anti-apartheid activist and a young punk Londoner.

"I don't think there could have been a bigger show that I could have possibly done (while) not even out of school yet," he says.

Although his schedule is still packed — he performs eight shows a week, has three days of rehearsal and goes to class on Mondays — it's worth it as he works towards his goals.

"I would love to go back to Jamaica at some point and really contribute as much as I can to young people who have a talent and want to get into musical theatre or performance."

Balance is true key to financial success

ADVICE

So many mixed messages leave us confused, so clear your mind

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

If you don't have a balanced approach to your financial life, you're going to be off-kilter. ISTOCK

One thing that confuses people about money is the number of mixed messages they receive.

On one side are companies that throw credit at you, offering cards with the latest bells and whistles, points to fly, free travel insurance, cash back. They promise you that you can have everything you want right now for just a small minimum monthly payment.

On the other side are experts who shout that debt is evil and that it's stupid to pay interest.

Who would you rather believe? The guy who tells you it's okay to go shopping, or the guy who calls you a moron for spending money you haven't yet earned?

Then there are the mixed messages about saving for retirement: On side A are Jacks who say that if you aren't making the maximum contribution to your RRSP every year, cat food will be too good for you.

On the flip side are the Jackies who claim that you shouldn't even put money in a retirement plan because RRSPs are a tax trap.

Who would you rather believe? The body that tells you to go ahead and spend all your money because saving is a waste or the body that tells you to stop stealing from your future self? Hmm.

Then there's the life insurance industry. On one side sit the boys in the T-shirts that say, "Term insurance is the best." The lads on the other side are wearing T-shirts with the slogan, "Permanent insurance is the best." So which is it?

Is it any wonder that people are confused?

While people typically associate me with debt, I don't believe that credit is the monster. Ignorance is. And it doesn't matter if you're buying a house, buying insurance, or buying an investment, if you don't have a balanced approach to your financial life, you're going to be off-kilter.

Doing anything whole hog and to the detriment of the other parts of your financial life is not only shortsighted, it's dumb.

Debt repayment is important, but so is having some money set aside for emergencies and to grow for the future. After all, if you're debt-free with no emergency fund, it'll only take a tiny slip to push you into the red.

The only way to find balance is to be able to hold more than one thought in your head at the same time . . . actually four thoughts, that's all:

1. Don't spend more money than you make. So no credit card or line of credit balances, and no overdraft.

2. Save something. How much depends on how old you are and how much you've already saved.

3. Get your debt paid off — consumer debt first.

4. Mitigate your risks with an emergency fund and enough of the right kind of insurance.

Stop listening to the cacophony of shouts trying to sway you to one side or the other in a debate. Think for yourself. If there are holes in your knowledge, learn. Then think.

It's how you choose to use your money that will keep you balanced financially.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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Brampton's Cyle Larin scored the first-ever goal at Orlando City Stadium in the 15th minute of Sunday's season-opening 1-0 win over New York City

metro SPORTS

Thompson, Leman win on home snow

SKI CROSS

Canadians make it a sweep in final World Cup race

Marielle Thompson found herself in an unfamiliar position in Sunday's ski cross final — in second spot after winning her previous three heats in wire-to-wire victories.

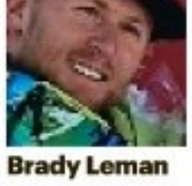
But the most consistent ski cross racer on the planet simply bided her time as if she was stalking prey, and when she zoomed past Sandra Naeslund of Sweden halfway down the hill, a roar went up from the crowd at Blue Mountain Resort.

Thompson capped her thoroughly dominant World Cup season with a victory, and was presented with her third Crystal Globe as the season's overall champion.

"I think any time I'm behind in a heat I just sit and try to be patient," the 24-year-old from Whistler, B.C., said. "I know there's that big long straightaway at the end and I just needed to wait for my chance and I'm glad it worked out in the end."

The victory was Thompson's seventh on the season, and kicked off an excellent day for Canada.

Canada finished 1-2 in the men's final with Brady Leman winning gold and Chris Del Bosco claiming silver.



Brady Leman GETTY IMAGES

Canada was presented with the Nation's Cup as the top team on the season.

The solid result was the perfect final tune-up for the freestyle world championships which begin Tuesday in Sierra Nevada, Spain.

Leman, a 30-year-old from Calgary, was quick out of the gate and never trailed in any of Sunday's four rounds of the event that sees four skiers race head-to-head down the icy run of treacherous turns and jumps.

"It's not often that you can win a ski cross like that (skiing from the front), because everyone is so good," Leman said. "It's a cool feeling to be able to get out front and hold everyone off all day and just stick to the plan and execute."

Leman finished second in the overall World Cup standings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marielle Thompson of Whistler, B.C., left, captured her seventh victory of the World Cup ski cross season on Sunday in The Blue Mountains, Ont. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN FINLAND

Harvey wins cross-country gold medal at worlds

Alex Harvey won the men's 50-kilometre freestyle cross-country ski race at the Nordic world championships Sunday.

Harvey, of St. Ferreol, Que., timed his final attack perfectly, taking the lead on the last corner and holding off Russian Sergei Ustyugov in the final sprint.

Weekend recap

Above: Nick Rimando stopped Sebastian Giovinco's 31st-minute penalty kick and Toronto FC played to a 0-0 draw in its MLS season debut on Saturday against Real Salt Lake in Utah.
SCOTT G. WINTERTON/THE DESERET NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Right: The third-tier Toronto Wolfpack began their long-term quest to reach the top flight of English rugby league in confident style on Saturday, defeating the London Skolars 76-0. Forward Fuifui Moimoi had three tries.
COURTESY OF TORONTO WOLFPACK

Below: DeMar DeRozan finished with 11 points, well off his season average of 27.9, in the Raptors' 101-94 loss in Milwaukee on Saturday night.
TOM LYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UFC

Woodley retains title against 'Wonderboy'

Tyron Woodley understood the booing that thoroughly drowned out his words when he spoke to the fans following his tactical victory over Stephen Thompson at UFC 209.

"I know this is a sport where you guys love to see knockouts," Woodley said. "You guys love to see the gore. You love to see the blood, guys getting beat up, and then they find a way to come back. I love watching it as well.

"But guess what? I love being the world champion, and sometimes it's not the sexiest fight on Earth."

The 34-year-old UFC welterweight champ simply felt he couldn't risk his belt or his livelihood in another emotional brawl with Thompson, the unpredictable karate fighter who nearly finished him four months ago in their wild first bout in New York.

Thompson exercised the same caution in their Vegas rematch, and Woodley eked out a cerebral, largely action-free victory that left both fighters thinking they had won. It also left many fans wishing they hadn't paid to watch a chess match in a cage. Woodley (17-3-1) and Thompson (13-2-1) had the same solution to a common dilemma for high-profile mixed martial artists and boxers in big bouts: They can either fight intelligently, or they can entertain the fans who come to see blood.

Tyron Woodley GETTY IMAGES

UFC president Dana White also lamented the lack of action in the main event, but still defended Woodley and Thompson.

"It's easy to sit in your seats and boo people," White said. "You're not out there fighting Tyron Woodley or Wonderboy. A lot was at stake. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Russian lawmaker pitches hooliganism as a sport

A Russian lawmaker has proposed an unorthodox solution to the country's problems with soccer hooliganism ahead of next year's World Cup — legalize it and make it a spectator sport.

Igor Lebedev, who sits in the Russian parliament, has drawn up rules for organized brawls — 20 fighters on each side, unarmed — that "could turn fans' aggression in a peaceful direction."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnson plays up to ranking

Dustin Johnson survived a few anxious moments on the back nine by playing mistake-free when it mattered to win the Mexico Championship in his debut as the No. 1 player in the world.

Johnson blasted out of a fairway bunker to the middle of the 18th green to secure a two-putt par for a 3-under 68 and a one-shot victory over Tommy Fleetwood of England. Johnson became the fifth player to win in his debut at No. 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I don't cheat,' trans wrestling champ says

LGBTQ ISSUES

Girls' state champ doing his part to find line of fairness

Mack Beggs, top, competes against Mya Engert during a state wrestling tournament in Cypress, Texas in February. Beggs holds back on the amount of testosterone he takes to keep the playing field fair in his eyes. MELISSA PHILLIP/HOUSTON CHRONICLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A transgender boy who won a girls wrestling state title in Texas says he would compete against boys if allowed and is taking lower doses of testosterone to try to be fair to his opponents.

Mack Beggs said in an interview that aired Sunday on ESPN that he competes against girls only because the state's governing body for public high school sports requires him to wrestle under the gender listed on his birth certificate.

Asked if he was taking the amount of testosterone he wanted while transitioning to male, Beggs said he was "holding back because of wrestling."

"I want to do it fairly," he said. "I don't want to cheat. That's not something I do. I don't cheat."

The 17-year-old Beggs won the 110-pound girls title as a junior at Euless Trinity High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He could face a legal challenge during his senior wrestling season.

U.S. University Interscholastic League rules allow Beggs to compete while taking testosterone, but school superintendents and athletic directors voted overwhelmingly last year on the gender requirement.

"We asked them is it OK if this transgender, this trans male were to take testosterone while transitioning and that's what we got, 'They can take it, but they can only compete on what's on their birth certificate,"' Beggs said. "That's when we were like, 'Well, then, there goes us asking if I can compete on the males.'"

> **Change the laws and then watch me wrestle boys.**
> Mack Beggs

Jim Baudhuin, an attorney and Dallas-area wrestling parent, has filed a lawsuit seeking to keep Beggs from competing against girls. The lawsuit mostly takes aim at the UIL for allowing Beggs to face girls while on testosterone.

After the lawsuit was filed, two girls forfeited their matches against Beggs at the regional tournament leading into the state meet. All four opponents wrestled Beggs at state, but some parents complained that it wasn't fair. There were some boos in the crowd after Beggs won the state title.

Beggs said the girls who forfeited at regionals were forced into that decision by their parents.

"It's not like I'm doing this because I want to, like, call myself a boy and just dominate all these girls," Beggs said. "What do I get out of that? I don't get anything out of that. I was put in this position. Change the laws and then watch me wrestle boys."

Beggs said wrestling became an outlet for him as he struggled with gender identity.

"I want to wrestle," he said. "Doesn't matter who you put in front of me, you come in front of me, want to wrestle, all right, let's wrestle. Let's go. That's all I want to do."

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Slow Cooker Chicken Stew

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We're sad to say, it's not spring yet so you're still going to need some warming, rib-sticking dinners like this easy-peasy chicken dinner.

Ready in 6 hours 10 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 6 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 6 chicken thighs
- 1 potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme (1 tsp dried)
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1/2 cup light cream

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or high-sided skillet, sauté onions, celery and carrots in splash of vegetable oil for about five minutes.

2. Add flour, thyme and bay leaves and stir for a minute. Add stock and stir until smooth. Simmer for 3 or 4 minutes until sauce thickens.

3. Add the potatoes and a good pinch of salt and pepper.

4. Place chicken thighs in the bottom of slow cooker and spoon the vegetable mixture over. Seal and set for 6 hours.

5. Add peas and cream and cook for 10 more minutes. Serve plain or over mashed potatoes.

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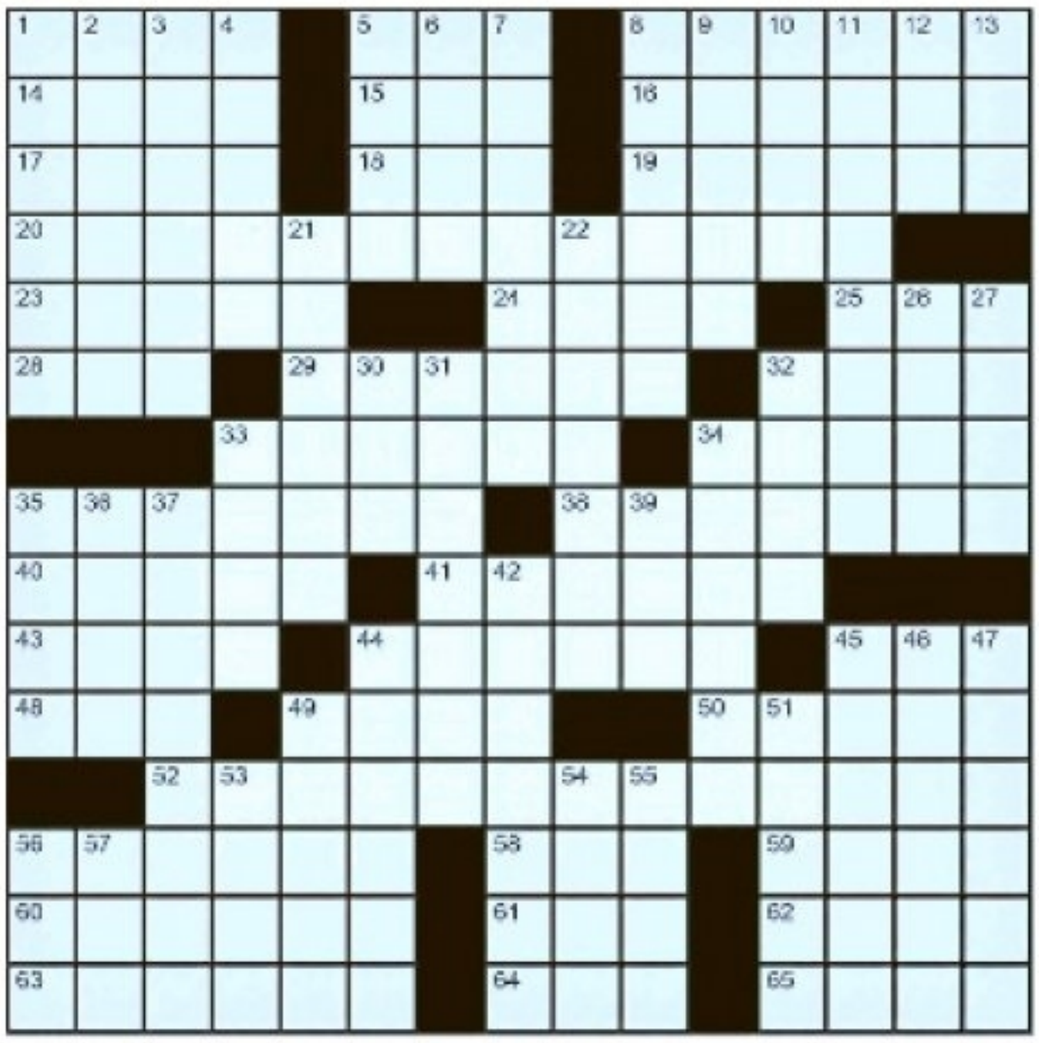
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Telecommunications speed unit
5. Unpaired
8. Canadian pilot Billy Bishop (b.1894 - d.1956), for one: 2 wds.
14. 'Height'-meaning prefix
15. Masses, with Polloi
16. Like a widely recognized symbol
17. Lettered frozen dessert chain
18. Possibilities
19. Yellow-bordered mag since 1888: 2 wds.
20. 1847: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic 'Evangeline' poem: 4 wds.
23. Building extension
24. Delivery vehicles
25. Dustup
28. San Francisco's _ Valley
29. Futuristic cards
32. Climbing plant's one-of-some
33. Fame
34. Vivian of "I Love Lucy"
35. Word's opposite meaning word
38. Got even
40. Bible king
41. Have ambitions
43. The Phantom's name in Gaston Leroux's classic novel The Phantom of the Opera
44. Socially belongs: 2 wds.
45. Wine classification, Grand _
48. Broom alternative
49. Adjust the dial
50. Greyish
52. Ontario's provincial flower: 2 wds.
56. Pauley Perrette's character on "NCIS", Abby _
58. Triste
59. Sky bear
60. Harvey of "The Carol Burnett Show"
61. Lacto-_ (Vegetarian type)
62. Accelerated in the auto
63. Leafy salad ingredients
64. '_' _ for Newfoundland
65. London, England's _ Park

DOWN
1. WWII battleground Peninsula in the Philippines
2. Identifying info on a bank statement, for short: 2 wds.
3. Refined
4. Writer, Sir Arthur Conan _ (b.1859 - d.1930)
5. Columbus, _
6. Politely tip one's hat
7. Deny
8. Gospel singer CeCe
9. Training institutes, for short
10. _ de boeuf
11. Making mad
12. Business: Co., in French
13. Umberto _ (Foucault's Pendulum author)
21. Stretch
22. Short snoozes
26. As soon as
27. Unwanted plant
30. "Pick a card, _ card."
31. Caesar Salad ingredient
32. Barn pointer
33. Chess piece
34. _ equinox
35. "Cough..."
36. Pianist/conductor, Peter _
37. Hidden trap activator: 2 wds.
39. Gladiator's lucky number
42. Rancher's hat
44. Sofas-turned-beds
45. What the happily-making-noise bird is
46. Practiced eco-friendliness
47. Bed, upon rising
49. Tennessee football player
51. Partially frozen colourful drink
53. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
54. Sitarist, _ Shankar
55. Wedding vows: 2 wds.
56. Film studio, DreamWorks _ _ _
57. _ anglais (English horn)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a great day to research anything or dig for answers. You will not stop until you find what you're looking for..

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Enjoy all your relationships with friends and members of groups today, because people are upbeat and glad to see you. Share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get his or her feedback.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You are high-viz now, with the Sun high in your chart. This also means you look good to bosses and VIPs, which is why you should make your pitch. Ask for what you want.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Make travel plans or do anything that will expand your life experience today, because you want to learn more and feel adventurous. What can you do?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions about shared property, taxes, debt and insurance issues will go well. This includes anything to do with inheritances and the wealth of your partner.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a strong day for a heart-to-heart discussion with a partner or close friend. People are ready to meet you halfway, and vice versa.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Think of ways that you can get better organized both at home and at work. Not only will you be happy to be better organized, you also will want to do something to improve your health.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a playful, fun-loving creative day for you. Enjoy sports events, activities with children, the arts and all social diversions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A conversation with a parent could be significant today. In either case, you will focus on home, family and your private life.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Listen to yourself today. Make a point of being clear in all your communications with others. People want to hear what you have to say.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are giving thought to cash flow, earnings and your assets today. That's because you're giving yourself a report card that is based on earnings and wealth.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
All your dealings with others today will be quite successful, because you are coming from a strong space. Your confidence is obvious, which is why others will listen to you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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2			7			6		
	7						8	4
		6	8	9			5	

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